

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 are pending in the present application.

The Examiner has required election in the present application between:

Group I, claims 1 and 3; and

Group II, claims 2.

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I, claims 1 and 3.

CONCLUSION

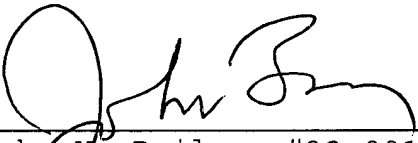
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John W. Bailey (Reg. No. 32,881) at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Appl. No. 10/697,888

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By   
John W. Bailey, #32,881

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